

DURHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Health Department,
Byland Lodge,
Durham.

To the Chairman & Members of the
Durham Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Annual Report for 1942.

In accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health this Annual Report is to be a summary report and deals with the most essential matters for the year 1942.

VITAL STATISTICS:

Statistics indicate that the health of the Durham Rural District was maintained at a satisfactory level during the year 1942. The death-rate was 10.9 per 1,000 of the population as against 12.02 for the preceding year. This is the lowest death-rate recorded for the District, the previous lowest being for the year 1928 when this rate was 11.28. There was an increase in the birth-rate which was 19 per 1,000 inhabitants compared with 17.3 for the preceding year. This is the highest birth-rate on record for the District since the year 1930 when it was 20.29. The most satisfactory rate for the year was the infant mortality rate of 42 per 1,000 live births, a welcome improvement on the rates of 73, 64 and 68 for the three previous years. This is a record low infant mortality rate for the District, the previous lowest being 60 in the year 1938. It compares favourably for the first time with the rate for England and Wales as a whole, which is 49.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES:

Scarlet Fever.....	69
Diphtheria.....	44
Paratyphoid Fever.....	1
Measles.....	163
Whooping Cough.....	13
Erysipelas.....	5
Pneumonia.....	17
Puerperal Pyrexia.....	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis.....	15
Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis.....	18

During the year cases of Scarlet Fever occurred in all parts of the District and the incidence has not been heavy. This infection continues of a mild clinical type and no deaths resulted.

There was an increase in the number of cases of Diphtheria during the year, 44 cases being notified as against 25 in the previous year. No locality was specially affected and the cases occurred uniformly throughout the year. Many cases of a severe type were encountered and 3 deaths occurred from this cause. The campaign for immunisation was maintained during the year and in the last quarter it was intensified throughout the schools. The co-operation of the Health Visitors in this effort has proved very effective. During the year 474 children under 5 years of age were immunised resulting in 36.7% of this part of the child population being protected against Diphtheria at the end of the year. Of the age group between 5 years and 15 years 1,047 children were immunised, 64.75% of this group being protected at the end of the year.

There was a decrease in the number of cases of Measles notified from 257 in 1941 to 163 in 1942. The heaviest incidence of this infection was during the third quarter, when 81 cases were notified, 54 of these occurring in Bearpark. No deaths were assigned to this cause.

Ten of the 13 cases of Whooping Cough occurred in the last quarter and two deaths resulted.

SANITARY INSPECTION:

Sanitary inspection of the District has been maintained during the course of the year and herewith is given a summary of the informal notices served:-

	Eastern District	Western District	Total
Dwelling Houses:			
Structural defects	14	25	39
Dairies & Milkshops	1	3	4
Cowsheds	1	2	3
Ashpits & Privies	-	4	4
Deposits of Refuse	1	3	4
Waterclosets	7	5	12
House drainage	16	13	29
Water supply	6	-	6
Water under floor	3	-	3
Dustbins defective	38	1	39
Dirty Fish shop	1	-	1
Dirty house	3	1	4
Caravans	-	1	1
Rat infestation	-	1	1
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Totals	88	59	147

Meat Condemned and voluntarily surrendered:

Beef	...	24 stone	Tinned Milk	...	86 tins
Mutton	...	9 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	Pork Sausage Meat	...	25 lbs.
Offal	...	1 "	Chopped Ham	...	29 "
Corned Beef..	..	25 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	Vegetables	...	2 stone
Bacon	...	11 lb.	Fish	...	4 "

Sewers and Sewage Disposal:

East Hetton Sewage Works:

Improvements have been made at these works by the construction of four sludge filters and a further range of similar filters will be made at an opportune time. New drains have been laid and the filters are giving satisfactory results.

Pity Me (West) Sewage Land.

A scheme for dealing with the sewage sludge and improving the irrigation of tank effluents on this land is in course of preparation and will be put in hand shortly.

Sherburn House Sewage Works:

Two new sludge filters have been constructed at these works to replace the old sludge lagoons.

Witton Gilbert Sewage Works:

A new storm and two sludge filters have been constructed here, the latter in order to reduce the load on the pump in times of excess flow.

Connections have been made to the public sewers at Shincliffe Colliery of drains from several properties omitted when carrying out the sewerage scheme for this village.

Privy Conversions:

One privy conversion has been made by private owner during the year.

The supplies of water under the control of the Council have been maintained during the year.

The public sewers and sewage disposal works throughout the District have been regularly attended to, the effluents therefrom being generally satisfactory.

SALVAGE:

Herewith is given a tabular statement of the results of the collection and disposal of salvaged materials during the year:-

Sales:-

	Tons	cwt	qrs	£.	s.	d.
Waste Paper and cardboard	106	17	1	639	9	11
Tins	85	19	3	130	18	1
Scrap Iron	24	12	3	61	3	3
Scrap Rubber	10	2	0	14	12	0
Rags and bagging	2	19	0	27	14	2½
Waste Bones	3	10	1	10	11	1
Brass, Lead & Aluminium		14	1	12	1	0½
Bottles and jars	323	gr.	11dz	86	14	9
				£983	4	4

Expenses:-

Wages	509	7	5
Petrol (Durham R.D.C.).	92	18	8
Oil	7	5	0
Sacks and rope	24	8	0
Payments to schools for paper collected	16	12	4
Rent of Garage	8	10	0
Baling Press	10	10	0
Use of Ambulance (Durham & Brandon Joint Hospital Board)		13	6
Repairs to Waggon	7	5	10
	£677	10	9

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

K. FALCONER, M.D., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

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